

I oppose using monopoly power to force the public to view highly partisan and unbalanced reporting. Since the broadcasting industry removed prior FCC regulations to provide equal time on issues of public concern, you have an ethical obligation to maintain a semblance of balance. Barring this, the public airwaves should return to mandatory regulations; something which is (putatively unnecessary) for providing multiple viewpoints which allow democracy to flourish.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.